

Excerpt from Interrogation of OKA, Takazumi, 30 March 1946.

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- Q. As I understand it, Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau is a very powerful position in the Government. Is that right?
- A. Yes, it is.
- Q. As Chief of the Naval Affairs Bureau your position was comparable in power to the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau. Is that right?
- A. Yes, it was comparable but the work which the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau did was different - our duties were different.
- Q. I understand that your duties would be different but your position as to power was comparable. Is that right?
- A. Yes. As you know, the influence the Army had with the Cabinet was stronger than that of the Navy. In this respect, our strength differed.
- Q. Akira MUTO was Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau at this time, was he not?
- A. Yes, he was.
- Q. Did not MUTO and you frequently contact the Foreign Office in connection with the drafting of the final notification to the United States?
- A. We didn't have any discussions.
- Q. Did you and MUTO contact the Foreign Office in connection with the drafting of the final notification?
- A. Yes we did. However, I don't recall the contents of the message.
- Q. With reference to the final note that was delivered in Washington on December 7, 1941, did you have any part in preparation of this note?
- A. I only read it. I did not make any of it up.
- Q. Did you or MUTO make any revisions in the note during the period of drafting it?
- A. I do not know about MUTO but I didn't do anything to it at all.
- Q. When did you first read the note?
- A. I don't remember.
- Q. If Mr. TOGO should say that you and MUTO kept in constant touch with the Foreign Office and took part in revising the note before its final preparation, would you say he was mistaken?
- A. I really am not sure about it. I do admit I went to the Foreign Ministry quite often, also MUTO, but as far as correcting the final draft goes, I do not remember, so what Mr. TOGO says may or may not be true.

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一九四六年三月二十日閣議紀要第九頁

同 私が理解して平比トコロデ陸軍省軍務局長ト云フハ
政府ニ於ケル非常ニ有ル地位ヲアルガソレニ相違アリマセカ。

答 ハイ、サウソノ通りデス。

同 海軍省軍務局長トシテ、貴方ノ地位ハ權力ニ於テ陸軍
省軍務局長ニ匹敵スルモノデシタ。ソレニ違ヒアリマセカ。

答 ハイ、匹敵致シマシタガ陸軍省軍務局長、シテイタハ事
ハ異ツテイマシタ。即チ我々、職務ハ異ツテイタデシタ。

同 貴方方、職務ハ異ツテイタ事ハ合リマスが權力ニ就イ
テハ貴方、地位ハ似通ツテイタデハアリマセカ。

答 ハイ、御存知ノ様ニ陸軍省軍務局長、シテ所有シテイタ
勢力ハ海軍、ソレヨリモ強カデシタ。コノ点ニ於テ我々ノ權
力ハ異ツテイマシタ。

同 武藤章ハ當時陸軍省軍務局長デアッタデハアリマセカ。

答 ハイ、サウデシタ。

同 武藤ト貴方トハ合衆國ニ対スル最後通牒ノ起草ニ關シ
テ外務省ト頻繁ニ連絡シテカッタデスカ。

答 我々ハ何等、協議モシマセデシタ。

同 貴方ト武藤ハ最後通牒起草ニ關シ外務省ト連絡
シマシタ。

答 ハイ、我々ハ連絡シマシタ。然シ我々ハ通牒ノ内容ヲ記
憶シテイマセ。

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同、一九四二年十二月七日、ワシントンで交した
最後通牒ニ因て、通牒ノ作成ニ貴方ノ参加シ
タ。

答、私ハ讀ミタダケテ。私ハソド、部會ニ送付セシメタ。

同、ソノ起草スル期間中貴方カ或ハ武蔵ノ通牒ニ
何等カ、訂正ヲ加ヘシタ。

答、武蔵ニ就テハ知リマセテ、私ハソレニ何等解シル
コトナシ。

同、貴方ハ何時最初ニ、通牒ヲ讀ミシタ。

答、寅ニシテ。

同、若シ東郷氏ガ貴方ト武蔵ガ外務省ト絶ニ連
絡ニテ最後ノ仕テ準備、前ニ通牒、訂正ニ参
加シタトイフナバ、貴方ハ假ガ誤ラレルト言ヘス。

答、實際ノ所私ノシツイニ確カニ言ヘナイデス。私
ハ武蔵モ頻繁ニ外務省ニ行ツテ事ハ承認タス
ガ、最後の草稿、訂正ニ関スル限リ、私ハ記憶シテ
イヤ。故ニ東郷氏ノ言フ事ハ眞實デアルカモ知ラ
セシ。或ハ眞實デアルカモ知ラセシ。

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